

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-12, 14-24, and 26-63 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 39-32 and 61 are amended and claims 62-63 are added. No new matter is added.

In the Office Action, claims 1-10, 12, 14, 16, 17, 19, 21, 23, 26, 28, 37-41, 43, 44, 47, 50-54, 56, 58, 60 and 61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 4,952,347 to Kasugai. Additionally, claims 11, 15, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 27, 29-49, 55, 57 and 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,952,347 to Kasugai. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 29-31, 32 and 61 have been amended in order to recite that the attachment is separate from the insert. This feature is clearly disclosed in the Figures and was believed to be implicit in the prior claims. It is now expressly and positively recited.

Independent claims 1, 29-31, 32 and 61 recite *inter alia*:

... the thermoplastic material covers the insert at least in part, this insert also being configured such that the thermoplastic material forms a portion in relief on the inside of the tank by taking on at least part of the shape of the insert, said portion in relief enabling an attachment separate from the insert to be mounted inside the tank ...

Kasugai discloses a method for manufacturing a fuel tank of synthetic resin, comprising placing an insert member (7) within the tank (1) through a holding plate (6) of synthetic resin which is fixed and held so as to be grasped by the inner circumferential surface of the side wall (4). The Examiner in making the rejections considers that the parts with references 11a, 12a, 13a and 6d in Kasugai constitute at the same time portions of the insert and portions of the attachment.

On the contrary, in the present invention as recited in independent claims 1, 29-31, 32 and 61, the attachment is separate from the insert.

Furthermore, Kasugai does not disclose or suggest an insert such that the thermoplastic material covering the insert forms a portion in relief for mounting of an attachment as claimed.

Thus, Kasugai cannot anticipate or render obvious the present invention as recited in claims 1, 29-31, 32 and 61 or claims dependent therefrom.

Independent claim 32 recites *inter alia*:

...a layer that forms a barrier against hydrocarbons and that covers said layer of thermoplastic.

Kasugai discloses a wall of synthetic resin such as polyethylene and polyamide (column 3, lines 37-39). However, Kasugai does not disclose or suggest a layer that forms a barrier against hydrocarbons and that covers said layer of thermoplastic. Thus, Kasugai cannot anticipate the present invention as recited in claim 32.

Independent claim 50 recites *inter alia*:

... said mounting member not being overmolded by the wall.

In making the rejection, the Examiner considers portions (3a, 3b, 3c and 3d) of the wall (3) in Kasugai as constituting a mounting member. In other words, the mounting member in Kasugai is a part of the wall (3) which is overmolded by said wall (3) of the tank.

Thus, Kasugai cannot anticipate the present invention as recited in independent claim 50 or claims dependent therefrom.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

New claims 62-63 are added.

New claim 62 recites *inter alia*:

... during one of blowing, thermoforming, and rotomolding the thermoplastic material, said attachment is not inserted inside the enclosure. This feature is shown on Figures 4 and 5 of the present application.

As shown in Figure 1 of Kasugai, during blowing of the wall (2), the elements such as a fuel pump (11) are already inserted inside the blowing mold.

Thus, Kasugai cannot anticipate the present invention recited in dependent claim 62.

New claim 63 recites *inter alia*:

... during mounting of said mounting member on the wall of the tank, said attachment is not mounted on the mounting member.

In Kasugai, during blowing of the wall (3), the fuel pump (11) is already mounted on the plate (16).

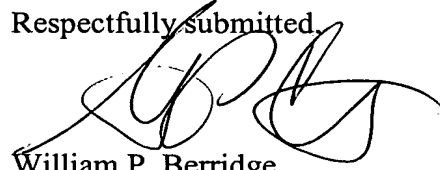
Kasugai does not disclose nor suggest that during mounting of a mounting member on the wall of the tank, the attachment is not mounted on the mounting member.

Thus, Kasugai cannot anticipate the present invention as recited in claim 63.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-12, 14-24 and 26-63 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



William P. Berridge  
Registration No. 30,024

Stephen P. Catlin  
Registration No. 36,101

WPB:SPC/can

Date: December 1, 2003

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

<p><b>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION</b> Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
---